IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 14, page 1 and ending at line 2, page 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 1 illustrates a home phone line network in accordance with the present invention. The preferred embodiment of the network complies with the Home Phoneline Networking Alliance specification version 2.0 (HPNA 2.0). The network allows multiple computers to communicate through telephone wires typically installed in residential homes. The network comprises a control chip 100. The chip 100 further comprises a Media Independent Interface (MII) 106, a Media Access Control (MAC) 108, and a Physical Layer (PHY) 110. The chip 100 implements the HPNA 2.0 specification. The chip 100 receives a signal containing data packets through the telephone wires via a phone jack 102. There is an analog front end (AFE) 104 which processes the signal between the chip 100 and the telephone wires. The chip 100 then processes the packets received in the signal from the AFE 104, and outputs a signal to the Host MAC 112 or to an Ethernet controller ~~112~~ 114.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 3, page 2 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As is known in the art, a priority tag, or "Q Tag", may be inserted into the header of a frame to provide information which may be used to prioritize the frame in relation to other frames. However, under HPNA 2.0, the frame may contain an additional 8-byte Limited Automatic Repeat Request (LARQ) in its header before the priority tag. The LARQ ~~110~~ conveys link layer priority information and provides a negative acknowledgment protocol to increase the speed of frame retransmission. The Ethernet protocol used by the Ethernet controller 112 does not recognize or expect the LARQ header. When a HPNA frame with the LARQ header and the Q Tag is sent to the Ethernet controller ~~112~~ 114, the Ethernet controller ~~112~~ 114 counts the bytes to the expected Q Tag location, but the Q Tag is actually 8 bytes further

down the frame. The Ethernet controller ~~112~~ 114 thus erroneously believes the frame has no priority information.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 10, page 4 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The Receive Data Path 202 receives data packets from the PHY 110 and sends data packets to the Ethernet controller ~~112~~ 114 via the MII 106. In the preferred embodiment, after each data packet sent by the Receive Data Path 202, another packet, referred to herein as a "frame status frame", is sent immediately following. The frame status frame contains certain status information required by subsequent processes.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at line 13, page 5 and ending at line 5, page 6 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Figure 3 is a flowchart illustrating a preferred embodiment of a method to strip the LARQ header to support frame priority in accordance with the present invention. In the preferred embodiment, the method is provided as part of the Receive Data Path 202. First, the Receive Data Path detects the LARQ header in a frame with a priority tag, or Q Tag, via step 302. Next, the LARQ header and the frame check sequence (FCS) of the frame with the priority tag are stripped, via step 304. The FCS is the last four bytes of a frame which is used to determine whether or not the frame contains errors. In the preferred embodiment, the information in the stripped LARQ header is placed into the frame status frame which will immediately follow the stripped frame with the priority tag. In this way, the LARQ header information is still available to other processes. The Receive Data Path 202 then recalculates the FCS for the stripped frame with the priority tag and adds it to the stripped frame with the priority tag, via step 306. This recalculation is necessary because otherwise, the Ethernet controller ~~112~~ 114 would erroneously determine that the stripped frame with the priority tag has errors because the LARQ header is missing. Then, the stripped frame with the priority tag and the recalculated FCS is sent to the Ethernet controller ~~112~~ 114, via step 308.